

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

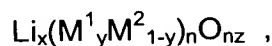
Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17 and ending on page 7, line 31 and replace with the following:

ca The Figure is a schematic diagram of a preferred embodiment of the present invention of producing lithium nickelate. The pre-mix production unit A consists of a stirred container, in which a 40% strength aqueous lithium nitrate solution is initially placed, into which is stirred the powdered β -nickel hydroxide with an average particle size of 10 μm and a specific surface area of $65\text{m}^2/\text{g}$. The slurry obtained is dried by spray drying and introduced into rotary kiln B as granules with an average particle diameter of about 100 μm . The contents of the kiln are held at sinter temperature under an inert gas for preferably 1 to 3 hours. Then (with batch operation), the argon atmosphere can be replaced by an atmosphere containing 20 to 50% oxygen. Then the rotary kiln is cooled and the lithium nickelate obtained is milled in a fluidised bed counterstream mill C to a particle diameter of less than 40 μm and the fine fraction with particle sizes of less than 3 μm are separated by air classification or in a cyclone and collected for recycling to kiln B. The NO_x -containing kiln atmosphere is scrubbed with aqueous lithium hydroxide solution in scrubber D and the lithium nitrate obtained is recovered for the production of another premix.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for preparing lithium transition metallates of the general formula



wherein

ca M^1 represents nickel, cobalt or manganese,

M^2 represents chromium, cobalt, iron, manganese, molybdenum or aluminium and is not identical to M^1 ,

n is 2 if M^1 is manganese, otherwise 1,

x is a number between 0.9 and 1.2,

y is a number between 0.5 and 1.0 and

z is a number between 1.9 and 2.1,